

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A procedure for removing a water-insoluble finish from aramide fibers, comprising treating the aramide fibers with an agent that comprises at least one hydrophilic fluid, wherein the aramide fibers are present as a short-cut, random fiber or flat textile material.
2. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble finish of the aramide fibers is a cross-linked water-blocking finish.
3. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble finish of the aramide fibers is a water-repellant finish.
4. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the aramide fibers comprise m- or p-aramide.
5. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrophilic fluid is water.
6. The procedure according to claim 5, wherein the water has a temperature ranging from about 60 to about 120°C.
7. The procedure according to claim 5, wherein the water has a temperature ranging from about 85 to about 110°C.
8. The procedure according to claim 5, wherein the water has a temperature of about 100°C.
9. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrophilic fluid is dimethyl sulfoxide or a solution of dimethyl sulfoxide in water.
10. The procedure according to claim 9, wherein a concentration of dimethyl sulfoxide in water is from about 30 to 100 %w/w.
11. The procedure according to claim 9, wherein a concentration of dimethyl sulfoxide in water is from about 70 to 100 %w/w.

10058998.013002

12. The procedure according to claim 9, wherein a temperature of the dimethyl sulfoxide or its aqueous solution is from about 20 to about 140°C.

13. The procedure according to claim 9, wherein a temperature of the dimethyl sulfoxide or its aqueous solution is from about 70 to about 110°C.

14. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrophilic fluid is an aqueous solution of an aliphatic cyclic ester with 2 to 4 alkylene groups.

15. The procedure according to claim 14, wherein the aliphatic cyclic ester is  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone.

16. The procedure according to claim 14, wherein a concentration of the aliphatic cyclic ester in water is from about 30 to about 80 %w/w.

17. The procedure according to claim 14, wherein a concentration of the aliphatic cyclic ester in water is from about 50 to about 70 %w/w.

18. The procedure according to claim 14, wherein a temperature of the aqueous solution of the aliphatic cyclic ester is from about 20 to about 90°C.

19. The procedure according to claim 14, wherein a temperature of the aqueous solution of the aliphatic cyclic ester is from about 60 to about 90°C.

20. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the at least one hydrophilic fluid is an aqueous solution of at least one aliphatic alcohol with 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

21. The procedure according to claim 20, wherein the aliphatic alcohol is methanol, ethanol, 1-propanol, isopropyl alcohol, 1-butanol, isobutyl alcohol, 2-butanol, tert-butanol, 1-pentanol, 2-pentanol, 3-pentanol or 2,2-dimethyl-1-propanol, individually or in combination.

22. The procedure according to claim 20, wherein a concentration of the aliphatic alcohol in water is from about 25 to about 70 %w/w.

23. The procedure according to claim 20, wherein a concentration of the aliphatic alcohol in water is from about 40 to about 70 %w/w.

10058398.013002

24. The procedure according to claim 20, wherein a temperature of the aqueous solution of the aliphatic alcohol is from about 20 to about 60°C.

25. The procedure according to claim 20, wherein a temperature of the aqueous solution of the aliphatic alcohol is from about 40 to about 60°C.

26. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the treating comprises stirring the aramide fibers in at least one hydrophilic solvent that optionally contains a defoamer.

27. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the treating comprises treating the aramide fibers in a wash cycle of a washing machine.

28. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the aramide fibers are present as a flat textile material, and are treated with a water vapor jet.

29. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of the aramide fibers to the at least one hydrophilic fluid is from about 1:14 to about 1:1.

30. The procedure according to claim 29, wherein the weight ratio of the aramide fibers to the at least one hydrophilic fluid is from about 1:14 to about 1:6.

31. The procedure according to claim 1, wherein the agent further contains a defoamer.

32. The procedure according to claim 31, wherein the defoamer is a surfactant or a surfactant-containing composition.

33. The procedure according to claim 32, wherein the surfactant-containing composition is a detergent.

34. The procedure according to claim 31, wherein the defoamer in the at least one hydrophilic fluid is present in a concentration of from about 0.01 to about 3 %w/w.

35. The procedure according to claim 31, wherein the defoamer in the at least one hydrophilic fluid is present in a concentration of from about 0.1 to about 2 %w/w.

36. The procedure according to claim 31, wherein the defoamer in the at least one hydrophilic fluid is present in a concentration of about 1 %w/w.

10056398.013002

37. A process for forming a material, comprising removing a water-insoluble finish from aramide fibers in accordance with the procedure of claim 1 to derive treated aramide fibers, and subsequently forming the treated aramide fibers into pulp or into a mixture with other fibers or synthetic or natural origin.

38. The process according to claim 37, wherein the treated aramide fibers have a swelling value of  $\leq 40$  %.

10058398.013002